

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, November 4, 2008 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, S. Hoag, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger, L. Tavtigian and W. O'Connor. Also present were Township residents M. McDowell, M. Cermele and R. Walsh.

CTEC'S PURPOSE (N.J.S.A. 40:56A, 1968): to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2008 was published in the Chatham Courier & Daily Record newspapers and posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

Minutes

S. Carroll motioned to approve the minutes from October 7, 2008, S. Hoag 2nd with all in favor.

Meeting Dates for 2008 and January 2009

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 and Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Awards

- NJ Clean Communities Award presented to CTEC on May 22, 2008 by the NJ Clean Communities Council for the Commission's Riverside Cleanup project. S.Hoag.
- ANJEC Environmental Awards for 2008 to CTEC: Environmental Achievement Award for Township energy and emission inventory performed by S. Carroll and K. Abbott. Environmental Achievement Commendation for Back2Tap program to limit use of plastic water bottles, directed by P. Collington and K. Abbott.

Events

- Green Community Festival, Saturday November 1, 2008, 11am - 4pm, rain or shine, Liberty Park in Peapack-Gladstone NJ. The Peapack/Gladstone Environmental Commission, in association with the Bedminster and Far Hills Environmental Commissions invite you to our 2nd Annual Green Community Festival. Music, electronics recycling. A day of exchanging ideas on sustainable living -- Eco-Art workshops for all ages -- Saving Money with Green Living -- Environmentally friendly products -- Delicious local food. Contact: Lilibet Clarke: Lclarke@earthwise.us or Suki Dewey Sdewey@earthwise.us. www.earthwise.us.
- 6th Annual Volunteer Monitoring and Education Summit. Monday & Tuesday, November 17 & 18, 2008, at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. \$55. www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm/vm. CTEC will reimburse expense for EC members.
- SEAMLESS regional transportation workshop every 4th Tuesday at 8 AM in Madison at Madison Library until the new municipal facilities are finished with construction. Regional transportation is an environmental issue.

Presentations

The ANJEC slide show "Action Plan for a Sustainable Summit" was presented by S. Carroll. Parts of the presentation and additional information can be found at SummitGreen.org and anjec.org. It was suggested that an informal presentation be prepared for the Township Committee to seek their support. The support of the community will also be necessary and the support of the Board of Education and the Borough of Chatham will be sought as well.

After an introduction by K. Abbott, Marta McDowell, a Pine Street resident, professional horticulturist and landscape designer, and a long time gardener at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum presented an update on the Township proposed Community Garden. She asked for the Environmental Commission's support for this project. D. Stillinger proposed a resolution that the Environmental Commission approves and encourages the Community Garden and supports the efforts of the Open Space Committee. The motion was 2nd by K. Abbott with all in favor.

Application/LOI Review

- PENDING. ROSEPOND/VALLE ESTATES. 10-23-08. Block 135, Lots 19 & 19.01. Application to Planning Board to allow construction vehicles to enter the project from Green Village Rd. The prohibition against construction vehicles entering the property from Green Village Road was set forth in a note on the final approved site plan.
- PENDING. 296 LAFAYETTE AVE. 10-8-08. Block 106, Lot 18. Application to Planning Board for amendment to deed restriction in order to construct a deck and walkways. Former Lyons property which had a four-family house. Concerns involve drainage and water runoff.

- CLOSED. 689 SHUNPIKE RD. 6-27-08. Block 144, Lot 24. Wetland permit application to NJDEP for construction in wetlands. Letter to NJDEP approved with minor changes, motion by L. Caprioglio, 2nd by S. Hoag with all in favor.
- CLOSED. 494 SOUTHERN BLVD. 9-17-08. Block 128, Lot 6. LOI application. Letter to NJDEP approved with minor changes, motion by L. Caprioglio, 2nd by K. Abbott with all in favor.
- CLOSED. 656 FAIRMOUNT AVE. Merrel. New plans received by Chatham Township 9-12-08. Block 17, Lots 79 and 79.01. Application to Planning Board for minor subdivision. Request to alter property lines on the two lots. No LOI has been obtained although wetlands exist in the vicinity of the pond and drainage ditch. Property slopes to rear, drainage is to power lines, Stonewick Drive, and then to Great Swamp NWR. Property is in R-3 (1/2-acre) zone, each new lot would be over an acre. Two existing buildings and a shed on the lots. Several retaining walls proposed. No construction proposed therefore no need for LOI.
- PENDING. ST. HUBERT'S. 9-23-08. Block 142, Lot 4.01. Application to Board of Adjustment for final site plan approval to expand existing facility. Conservation easement to NJDEP required as a condition. Suggest Board of Adjustment require applicant to present it with a copy of the recorded deed of conservation easement before granting final approval.
- PENDING. 7 SYCAMORE DRIVE. 4-30-08. Block 38, lot 42.05. Devco Associates, LLC. Application to Planning Board for amended final site plan approval for relief from limits of slope disturbance required by ordinance as stated in code sections 30-96.24 (steep slopes) and 30-96.20 (lot grading plan). The information submitted to the EC is not sufficient to understand what the applicant proposes to do (the conservation easement cannot be disturbed regardless of any slope conditions) so the EC cannot comment at this time.
- PENDING. REXCORP. 3-31-08. Block 142 Lots1 & 2 in Chatham Township, and Block 3303 Lot 2 in Madison. Application to NJDEP for Freshwater Wetlands Permits: GP#6 (activities disturbing up to 1 acre in isolated wetlands), GP#10A (very minor road crossing), Transition Area Averaging Plan Waiver, for a 2-phase development to create a pump-station, Giralda Farms Concert Series concert park, sanitary sewer lines, and office space. EC letters to NJDEP sent 7-18-07 and 5-6-08. Waiting for reply from NJDEP concerning vernal pools on the property.
- PENDING. OAK KNOLL SCHOOL. 9-11-07. Public hearing was held on 9-11-07 concerning request to break the DEP conservation easement on the Oak Knoll school property at Hickory Tree in order to replace an existing stormwater pipe. DEP and Township engineer had no objection. CTEC is following this application.
- NEW. ATT Wireless. Additional equipment to be installed on tower by the Public Works building. No comment needed. Approved.
- NEW. Chatham Day School. Plan to remove 3 buildings and construct 2 new buildings. Concerns are about encroachment on slope and increase in impervious cover. D. Stillinger, S. Hoag and L.Tavtigian will review plans and follow-up.

Reports & Discussions

- A motion was presented by L. Tavtigian to approve sending a copy of CTEC's letters to NJDEP to the property owners for information purposes, 2nd by S. Carroll with all in favor.
- Riverside Cleanup date set at April 18, 2009. Motion by L. Caprioglio, 2nd by P. Collington with all in favor.
- The tour of NewTech recycling facility will be organized by K. Abbott and P. Collington for sometime in January.
- Swimming pool discharge to stormwater drains. For futher information please see the Ten Towns fact sheet at <http://www.tentowns.org/10t/bmppool.htm>.
- Shunpike Field. K. Abbott plans to make a presentation to the Township Committee at the December 4th meeting for the consideration of using less toxic turf materials for the fields.
- Electronics Recycling. Next recycling event will be in May. Investigation of the possibility of expanding the township recycling program and reevaluation of the need for an October event in 2009 are continuing.
- Planning Board. L. Caprioglio reported that the Planning Board's time is spend mostly on the COAH situation. He has submitted the correspondence from John Ruschke re the Merrell property.
- Open Space Committee. S. Hoag reported that the Spring Street to Southern Boulevard section of the bike path is completed. Ribbon cutting ceremony to be announced. The Community Garden project is continuing. Additional paths from the municipal building to the Tanglewood area are being reviewed. Sidewalks along Shunpike Road are being considered through the "Safe Routes to Schools" program. The committee is still looking at the possibility of walking trails on the Kirby property and additional information will be following.
- Education and Outreach. P. Collington reported on school recycling and the problems coordinating the township and borough requirements.
- Energy subcommittee. S. Carroll reported that the state has approved the rebate program. The application is in the process of being filed and he will be following up on its status.
- Ground Water Protection Committee. D. Stillinger reported on the October 29th summit. The emphasis was on the Highlands but fringe communities such as Chatham Township are vulnerable.
- Conservation easement on-the-ground baseline data collection project. All conservation easements are on a map on the Township web site. Linson data collection has been completed. D. Stillinger will e-mail the results.
- Proposed 2009 CTEC budget:

PROPOSED 2009 CTEC BUDGET	
Secretary	\$1,375.

ANJEC dues (Workshop plan)	400.
River Cleanup expenses	100.
Environmental brochure or event in cooperation with Chatham Borough EC (create, print & mail)	1,500.
Promotional and display items	500.
Folding display table	100.
Update Great Swamp brochure first produced in 1992 by CTEC (members included Bill O'Connor, Bruce Campbell, Louis Schindel, Anne Bukata)	1,500.
Consultant - Develop a Green Element for Master Plan as now allowed by MLUL. Possible availability of an ANJEC grant for this.	2,000.
Update EC page on Township website	1,500.
Training for EC members - conferences & workshops	500.
Total	\$9,475.00

P. Collington moved to accept the proposed budget as presented, 2nd by D. Stillinger with all in favor

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- September 2008. Letter to Chatham Athletic Foundation suggesting alternatives to crumb rubber for artificial turf.
- May 2008. 47 & 51 Ormont Road to Planning Board, Verizon cell tower in Green Village to Board of Adjustment, 428 River Road to NJDEP, 49 Woodmont Drive to NJDEP, RexCorp re vernal pools to NJDEP.

MAIL RECEIVED (not including applications and notices mentioned above)

- CTEC financial expense statement from M. Gerba through September 2008.
- Minutes of Long Hill EC and Chatham Borough EC, various newsletters, event announcements, and flyers.

CTEC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:15 PM.

Marge Gerba
Acting Minutes Secretary